

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

LAURA CYR, an individual,
Plaintiff,

V.

RELIANCE STANDARD LIFE
INSURANCE COMPANY, an
Illinois corporation; and SUSAN
STRICKLER, an individual,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:23-cv-06286-DSF-RAO

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER¹

1. A. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary or private information for which special protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the Court to

¹ This Stipulated Protective Order is identical to the Protective Order entered in Case No. 2:23-cv-06257-DSF-RAO (Doc. 45) with the exception of revisions to indicate that this protective order is stipulated and to reference the case number of this action.

1 enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this
2 Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to
3 discovery and that the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends
4 only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment
5 under the applicable legal principles.

6

7 **B. GOOD CAUSE STATEMENT**

8 This action is likely to involve confidential, proprietary, or private information
9 for which special protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose
10 other than prosecution of this action is warranted. Such information that is claimed
11 to be confidential or proprietary consists of, among other things, medical
12 information, confidential business or financial information, information regarding
13 confidential business practices, or other confidential research, development, or
14 commercial information (including information implicating privacy rights of third
15 parties), information otherwise generally unavailable to the public, or which may be
16 privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure under state or federal statutes, court
17 rules, case decisions, or common law. Accordingly, to expedite the flow of
18 information, to facilitate the prompt resolution of disputes over confidentiality of
19 discovery materials, to adequately protect information the parties are entitled to keep
20 confidential, to ensure that the parties are permitted reasonable necessary uses of
21 such material in preparation for and in the conduct of trial, to address their handling
22 at the end of the litigation, and serve the ends of justice, a protective order for such
23 information is justified in this matter. Information will not be designated as
24 confidential for tactical reasons and that nothing be so designated without a good
25 faith belief that it has been maintained in a confidential, non-public manner, and
26 there is good cause why it should not be part of the public record of this case.

27

28

1 C. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PROCEDURE FOR FILING UNDER SEAL

2 As set forth in Section 12.3, below, this Stipulated Protective Order does not
 3 entitle the parties to file confidential information under seal; Local Civil Rule 79-5
 4 sets forth the procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied
 5 when a party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal.

6 There is a strong presumption that the public has a right of access to judicial
 7 proceedings and records in civil cases. In connection with non-dispositive motions,
 8 good cause must be shown to support a filing under seal. *See Kamakana v. City and*
 9 *County of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1176 (9th Cir. 2006); *Phillips v. Gen. Motors*
 10 *Corp.*, 307 F.3d 1206, 1210-11 (9th Cir. 2002); *Makar-Welbon v. Sony Electrics,*
 11 *Inc.*, 187 F.R.D. 576, 577 (E.D. Wis. 1999) (even stipulated protective orders
 12 require good cause showing), and a specific showing of good cause or compelling
 13 reasons with proper evidentiary support and legal justification, must be made with
 14 respect to Protected Material that a party seeks to file under seal. The parties' mere
 15 designation of Disclosure or Discovery Material as CONFIDENTIAL does not—
 16 without the submission of competent evidence by declaration, establishing that the
 17 material sought to be filed under seal qualifies as confidential, privileged, or
 18 otherwise protectable—constitute good cause.

19 Further, if a party requests sealing related to a dispositive motion or trial, then
 20 compelling reasons, not only good cause, for the sealing must be shown, and the
 21 relief sought shall be narrowly tailored to serve the specific interest to be protected.
 22 *See Pintos v. Pacific Creditors Ass 'n*, 605 F.3d 665, 677-79 (9th Cir. 2010). For
 23 each item or type of information, document, or thing sought to be filed or introduced
 24 under seal in connection with a dispositive motion or trial, the party seeking
 25 protection must articulate compelling reasons, supported by specific facts and legal
 26 justification, for the requested sealing order. Again, competent evidence supporting
 27 the application to file documents under seal must be provided by declaration.

28 Any document that is not confidential, privileged, or otherwise protectable in

1 its entirety will not be filed under seal if the confidential portions can be redacted.
2 If documents can be redacted, then a redacted version for public viewing, omitting
3 only the confidential, privileged, or otherwise protectable portions of the document
4 shall be filed. Any application that seeks to file documents under seal in their
5 entirety should include an explanation of why redaction is not feasible.
6

7 2. DEFINITIONS

8 2.1 Action: this pending federal lawsuit in the Central District of California,
9 Case No. 2:23-cv-06286-DSF (RAOx)

10 2.2 Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the
11 designation of information or items under this Order.

12 2.3 “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items: information (regardless of
13 how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for
14 protection under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), and as specified above in
15 the Good Cause Statement.

16 2.4 Counsel: Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as
17 their support staff).

18 2.5 Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or
19 items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery, or that a Non-Party
20 produces in response to a subpoena, as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

21 2.6 Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless
22 of the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including,
23 among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things) that are produced or
24 generated in disclosures or responses to discovery, including subpoenas, in this
25 matter.

26 2.7 Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter
27 pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as
28 an expert witness or as a consultant in this Action.

1 2.8 House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this Action.
2 House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside
3 counsel.

4 2.9 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association or
5 other legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

6 2.10 Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a
7 party to this Action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this Action and
8 have appeared in this Action on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law firm
9 that has appeared on behalf of that party, and includes support staff.

10 2.11 Party: any party to this Action, including all of its officers, directors,
11 employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their
12 support staffs).

13 2.12 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or
14 Discovery Material in this Action.

15 2.13 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation
16 support services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or
17 demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium)
18 and their employees and subcontractors.

19 2.14 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is
20 designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

21 2.15 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery
22 Material from a Producing Party.

23
24 3. SCOPE

25 The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only
26 Protected Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or
27 extracted from Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or

1 compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or
2 presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.

3 Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by the orders of the
4 trial judge. This Order does not govern the use of Protected Material at trial.

5

6 4. DURATION

7 Once a case proceeds to trial, information that was designated as
8 CONFIDENTIAL or maintained pursuant to this protective order used or introduced
9 as an exhibit at trial becomes public and will be presumptively available to all
10 members of the public, including the press, unless compelling reasons supported by
11 specific factual findings to proceed otherwise are made to the trial judge in advance
12 of the trial. *See Kamakana*, 447 F.3d at 1180-81 (distinguishing “good cause”
13 showing for sealing documents produced in discovery from “compelling reasons”
14 standard when merits-related documents are part of court record). Accordingly, the
15 terms of this protective order do not extend beyond the commencement of the trial.

16

17 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

18 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection.
19 Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under
20 this Order must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that
21 qualifies under the appropriate standards. The Designating Party must designate for
22 protection only those parts of material, documents, items or oral or written
23 communications that qualify so that other portions of the material, documents, items
24 or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably
25 within the ambit of this Order.

26 Mass, indiscriminate or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations
27 that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper
28 purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber the case development process or to impose

1 unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Designating
2 Party to sanctions.

3 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it
4 designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must
5 promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the inapplicable designation.

6 **5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations.** Except as otherwise provided in
7 this Order (*see, e.g.*, second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise
8 stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection
9 under this Order must be clearly so designated before the material is disclosed or
10 produced.

11 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

12 (a) for information in documentary form (*e.g.*, paper or electronic
13 documents, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial
14 proceedings), that the Producing Party affix at a minimum, the legend
15 “CONFIDENTIAL” (hereinafter “CONFIDENTIAL legend”), to each page that
16 contains protected material. If only a portion of the material on a page qualifies for
17 protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s)
18 (*e.g.*, by making appropriate markings in the margins).

19 A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents available for inspection
20 need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has indicated
21 which documents it would like copied and produced. During the inspection and
22 before the designation, all of the material made available for inspection shall be
23 deemed “CONFIDENTIAL.” After the inspecting Party has identified the
24 documents it wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine which
25 documents, or portions thereof, qualify for protection under this Order. Then,
26 before producing the specified documents, the Producing Party must affix the
27 “CONFIDENTIAL legend” to each page that contains Protected Material. If only a
28 portion of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also

1 must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings
2 in the margins).

3 (b) for testimony given in depositions that the Designating Party identifies
4 the Disclosure or Discovery Material on the record, before the close of the
5 deposition all protected testimony.

6 (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and
7 for any other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on
8 the exterior of the container or containers in which the information is stored the
9 legend “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions of the information
10 warrants protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the
11 protected portion(s).

12 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent
13 failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive
14 the Designating Party’s right to secure protection under this Order for such material.
15 Upon timely correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable
16 efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this
17 Order.

18
19 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

20 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a
21 designation of confidentiality at any time that is consistent with the Court’s
22 Scheduling Order.

23 6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute
24 resolution process under Local Rule 37.1 et seq.

25 6.3 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on
26 the Designating Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper
27 purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other
28 parties) may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating

1 Party has waived or withdrawn the confidentiality designation, all parties shall
2 continue to afford the material in question the level of protection to which it is
3 entitled under the Producing Party's designation until the Court rules on the
4 challenge.

5

6 **7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is
disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this
Action only for prosecuting, defending or attempting to settle this Action. Such
Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the
conditions described in this Order. When the Action has been terminated, a
Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of section 13 below (FINAL
DISPOSITION).

Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a
location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons
authorized under this Order.

7.2 Disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items. Unless
otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a
Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated
"CONFIDENTIAL" only to:

(a) the Receiving Party's Outside Counsel of Record in this Action, as
well as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably
necessary to disclose the information for this Action;

(b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of
the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action;

(c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom
disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the
"Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);

(d) the court and its personnel;

(e) court reporters and their staff;

(f) professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional

Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

(g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;

(h) during their depositions, witnesses, and attorneys for witnesses, in the Action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary provided: (1) the deposing party requests that the witness sign the form attached as Exhibit A hereto; and (2) they will not be permitted to keep any confidential information unless they sign the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material may be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this Stipulated Protective Order; and

(i) any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel, mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement discussions.

8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED
IN OTHER LITIGATION

If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this Action as "CONFIDENTIAL," that Party must:

(a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification shall include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

(b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the

1 subpoena or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification shall include
2 a copy of this Stipulated Protective Order; and

3 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be
4 pursued by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

5 If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with
6 the subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this
7 action as “CONFIDENTIAL” before a determination by the court from which the
8 subpoena or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party’s
9 permission. The Designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking
10 protection in that court of its confidential material and nothing in these provisions
11 should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this Action
12 to disobey a lawful directive from another court.

13

14 9. **A NON-PARTY’S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE**
15 **PRODUCED IN THIS LITIGATION**

16 (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a
17 Non-Party in this Action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Such information
18 produced by Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the
19 remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be
20 construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

21 (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to
22 produce a Non-Party’s confidential information in its possession, and the Party is
23 subject to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party’s
24 confidential information, then the Party shall:

25 (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party
26 that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality
27 agreement with a Non-Party;

28

(2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated Protective Order in this Action, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably specific description of the information requested; and

(3) make the information requested available for inspection by the Non-Party, if requested.

(c) If the Non-Party fails to seek a protective order from this court within 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party may produce the Non-Party's confidential information responsive to the discovery request. If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party shall not produce any information in its possession or control that is subject to the confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the court. Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in this court of its Protected Material.

10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this Order, and (d) request such person or persons to execute the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE
PROTECTED MATERIAL

When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection,

1 the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil
2 Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever
3 procedure may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for production
4 without prior privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d) and
5 (e), insofar as the parties reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure of a
6 communication or information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work
7 product protection, the parties may incorporate their agreement in the stipulated
8 protective order submitted to the court.

9

10 12. MISCELLANEOUS

11 12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any
12 person to seek its modification by the Court in the future.

13 12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this
14 Protective Order, no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to
15 disclosing or producing any information or item on any ground not addressed in this
16 Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on any
17 ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective Order.

18 12.3 Filing Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any
19 Protected Material must comply with Local Civil Rule 79-5. Protected Material
20 may only be filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the
21 specific Protected Material at issue. If a Party's request to file Protected Material
22 under seal is denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file the information
23 in the public record unless otherwise instructed by the court.

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25 13. FINAL DISPOSITION

26 After the final disposition of this Action, as defined in paragraph 4, within 60
27 days of a written request by the Designating Party, each Receiving Party must return
28 all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material. As used in

1 this subdivision, “all Protected Material” includes all copies, abstracts, compilations,
2 summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected
3 Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the Receiving
4 Party must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same
5 person or entity, to the Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that (1) identifies
6 (by category, where appropriate) all the Protected Material that was returned or
7 destroyed and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any copies,
8 abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or capturing any
9 of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to
10 retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing
11 transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert
12 reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such
13 materials contain Protected Material. Any such archival copies that contain or
14 constitute Protected Material remain subject to this Protective Order as set forth in
15 Section 4 (DURATION).

16

17 14. VIOLATION

18 Any violation of this Order may be punished by appropriate measures including,
19 without limitation, contempt proceedings and/or monetary sanctions.

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21 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

22

23 DATED: July 11, 2024

24

25 /s/ Craig P. Ramsdell
26 Attorneys for Plaintiff

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1 DATED: July 11, 2024
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3 /s/ Keiko J. Kojima
4 Attorneys for Defendant
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6 FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, IT IS SO ORDERED.
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8 DATED: July 12, 2024
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10 /s/
11 HON. ROZELLA A. OLIVER
12 United States Magistrate Judge
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EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [print or type full name], of _____ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the United States District Court for the Central District of California on [date] in the case of _____ **[insert formal name of the case and the number and initials assigned to it by the court]**. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Central District of California for enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

I hereby appoint _____ [print or type full name] of
_____ [print or type full address and
telephone number] as my California agent for service of process in connection with
this action or any proceedings related to enforcement of this Stipulated Protective
Order.

Date:

City and State where sworn and signed:

Printed name:

Signature: